

4. On some new Species of Birds from South Africa.

By Captain G. E. SHELLEY.

[Received March 10, 1882.]

(Plate XVIII.)

On peace being proclaimed with the Boers, Major E. A. Butler, Major H. W. Feilden, and Captain Savile Reid were quartered for about nine months at Newcastle, Natal. Here they not only made some very valuable collections of birds, but took a large amount of notes referring to over 230 species, which they intend shortly to publish. Meanwhile they have permitted me to describe here the new species brought home.

These I propose to name *Anthus butleri* (a very interesting yellow-breasted Pipit) and *Sphenæacus natalensis*, the Natal representative of *S. africanus*, to which I will add the characters of *S. intermedius*, an intermediate form from Kaffraria.

ANTHUS BUTLERI, sp. nov. (Plate XVIII.)

Compared with *Macronyx croceus*, the upper parts and the wings both above and beneath are similarly coloured; but the crown is faintly tinted with yellow, and the under wing-coverts are of a slightly paler sulphur-yellow; a white patch just in front of the eye; sides of the head and neck brown, with a few dark-centred feathers towards the throat; chin, throat, and upper half of the breast yellow; remainder of the underparts tawny buff with a slight yellow shade down the centre of the abdomen; the feathers of the crop and sides of the chest are mostly with black central streaks, and are very slightly tinted with brown; flanks inclining to rufous-brown; sides of the belly rather indistinctly striped with rufous-brown; under tail-coverts with dark brown centres; under surface of the tail brown, with white on the outer two pairs of feathers; the outer pair white, margined on their inner webs with a brown patch of the same form as the feather itself. Iris dark brown; upper mandible horny brown, lower one lavender-colour; legs pale brown. Total length 7·2 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 3·25, tail 3, tarsus 1, middle toe without claw 0·7. November 9, Newcastle.

Four other specimens (one collected 6th June, and two males and a female, July) are apparently in the winter plumage, and differ from the one above-described in having no shade of yellow on the head, in the under surface of the body being tawny buff, only very slightly tinted with yellow on the middle of the breast and fading into white on the centre of the throat and chin. The yellow on the wings is about the same in them all; and this, together with the peculiar *Macronyx*-like dark mottling on the back, are characters by which the species may be readily recognized. In the specimen collected in

1861



Harhart. int.

ANTHUS BUTLERI

J. S. M. lith.